

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECRET

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Information

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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

BY CABLE

The following is a summary of Soviet and KVP military activities observed prior to 6 December.

A. Soviet

1. General:

Due to personnel, motor vehicle and arms exchange movements, the units are not quite ready for commitment. The discharge of personnel is being continued, while the arrival of replacements appears to have ended in late November.

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2. Training and Troop Movements:

a. On 24 November, four boxcars loaded with troops, together with twelve JS-1 tanks, passed through Meissen on their way toward Klotzsche.¹ On 21 November, one shipment carried a tank detail from Parchim to the Wittstock training grounds. On 23 November, six T-54 tanks were observed in operating practice at Zeithain. On 28 November, firing with light infantry weapons was practiced at Forst Zeitz.

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b. Two military shipments left Potsdam for Leipzig-Wiederitzsch on 25 and 27 November. Together, they comprised 23 boxcars with troops, 36 boxcars with billeting equipment, 18 flatcars with timber, 30 motor vehicles (including five mobile workshops) and seven field kitchens. On 28 and 29 November, one GSFG signal unit was moved from its barracks in Potsdam to an unknown destination.

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3. Arms and Vehicle Shipments:

a. On 17 November, a shipment of four 100-mm anti-tank guns and twenty anti-tank guns of a smaller caliber came through Berlin-Ostkreuz from the direction of Bernau. On 20 November, 16 x 122-mm howitzers and three

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152-mm gun howitzers of the 308th Artillery Brigade were entrained at Gera. The previously reported shipment from Potsdam to Schwerin on 24 November was found to have carried 36 x 122-mm field guns.²

b. On 24 November, five full-track amphibious cars were seen en route from Eberswalde toward Trampe.³

4. Personnel Exchange: A total of three empty shuttle trains were dispatched from Jagodin to Cottbus on 21, 22 and 23 November.

B. KVP.

1. General:

Harvest employment and furloughs of KVP personnel have in most cases been terminated. There has been an increase in routine activity. Weapons and other equipment are being overhauled. So far, the bulk of the motor vehicles is not in operation.

2. Recruitment and Training:

The recruiting campaign for KVP replacements was scheduled to end on 15 December. On 1 December, the new training year is supposed to have been started. The training of recruits has indeed been intensified during the reporting period.

3. Construction:

The completion of the headquarters building at Strausberg has been delayed, probably owing to Ulbricht's objections against luxurious interior decoration.

Comments:

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1. Possibly units of the 11th Guards Tank Division.

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3. The vehicles are believed to belong to the Fourth Guards Mechanized Army.

13 such cars have been observed so far.

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